



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446

Cell phone: +389 (0)70 367 547

Email: bvelickovska@usaid.gov

<http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Donates \$50,000 Worth of Equipment to Fight the Fires

The United States Government, through USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), will provide fire-fighting equipment valued at 50,000 USD to assist the Government of Macedonia in responding to extensive wildfires burning throughout the country since early July.

On July 25, U.S. Ambassador Gillian A. Milovanovic formally made a declaration of disaster and requested emergency funding for the local procurement of urgently needed fire-fighting equipment. In coordination with the GOM's Crisis Management Center, USAID will donate the equipment directly to the local fire brigades in the municipalities of Bitola, Strumica, Tetovo, and Veles, as well as to the Public Enterprise Macedonian Forests.

On July 18, the Government of Macedonia (GOM) declared a state of emergency due to the unusually high temperatures and wildfires. Since then, they have been battling fires in 32 municipalities. According to reports from the Crisis Management Center, the fires directly impact approximately half of Macedonia's population of 2 million people. Several of the fires are located in the vicinity of major urban areas, threatening lives and vital infrastructure.

NOTES TO THE EDITORS

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 25 projects worth \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.